

He Piles Up Top Secrets

In Our Intelligence Agency

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By John R. Cauley.

WASHINGTON, July 18. Even if a boy of 5 could dream about his future, Paul A. Borel would have considered it sheer fantasy to envision the station in life which has become a reality for him today.

In October of 1917 Mr. and Mrs. Jules Borel and their family, which included Paul, emigrated from Switzerland to the United States and went to Kansas City. Before leaving for America, the passports of the family had been signed by Allen W. Dulles, at that time second secretary of the American legation in Switzerland.

Today Allen Dulles is the director of the super-secret and far-flung Central Intelligence agency of the United States and Paul Borel is one of his top assistants. Even now in the maturity of 47 years and in the prime of a full and exciting life, Borel finds it all a little difficult to believe.

As He Counts His Blessings.

Seated in his office in one of the "temporary" frame buildings erected here during the war, Borel (pronounced Bore-ELL) observes philosophically, "As long as a man has a good family life, health, and an interesting job, that's about all he can ask."

Paul Borel certainly has these blessings. He has an attractive wife and six attractive children. He is in robust health, and as far as the job is concerned, there is no doubt about its fascination and responsibility.

Because of the sensitive nature of the Central Intelligence agency, a description of Borel's position is necessarily restricted. As the assistant director of the CIA in charge of the Central Intelligence Collection Service, he sees most of the material

which comes into the agency. His job is to organize this material so that it can be used by research personnel and to make possible not only its initial use but to store it in a way where it can be retrieved. Not Like a Cloak and Dagger Man.

The popular conception of the CIA is that it is an organization composed solely of cloak and dagger men operating furtively in remote lands. Borel belies this description. A handsome man with streaks of gray running through a full head of black hair, and with a hard and lean frame, he more easily fits the category of a young and vigorous corporation executive on the way to the top.

"This is just like running a business," Borel explains. "We have money, lots of paper, people and customers."

CIA is a big business—an enormously important big business in our national security. Its basic function is to co-ordinate, evaluate and disseminate intelligence. This agency has never disclosed how many employees it has, or how much money is in its budget. However, Harry Howe Ransom, in the book, "Central Intelligence and the National Security," says a reasonable estimate might put the number of Washington employees at 8,000 to 10,000, with several thousand agents overseas or outside Washington.

Estimates of yearly expenditures, he says, "probably amount to several hundred million dollars."

A Man Who Counts the Costs.

Borel's "shop," as he calls it, includes libraries, complex photo-copying equipment, files of documents and I. B. M. machines. He looks hard at costs and efficiencies—an attribute not popularly associated with a government employee.

He picks up a gadget and explains, "we made this down in our own machine shop for about half what it would cost us from the manufacturer."

Paul Borel, Who Came to Kansas City as a Swiss Emigrant at Age 5, Worked His Way Through K.U., Harvard and Columbia, Advanced From Engineering Work Here to Important Post in Washington—Incidents of a Career Always Leading Upward.

Borel's career can accurately be described as remarkable. When he arrived with his parents in Kansas City he could not speak English, only French. His father had little money, so at an early age, Paul had to go out and hustle for a living.

Equipped with ambition and energy, Paul was graduated from the engineering school of the University of Kansas, the school of business at Harvard, the law school of George Washington university, the National War College and Columbia university where he received a masters degree in international administration.

Early Hardships Here.

Borel remembers some of the hardships after the family settled in a house at 922 Newton street in the Sheffield industrial district in Kansas City. It was during the first World War and the French-speaking Borel family immediately became suspect. Young toughs in the neighborhood taunted him with cries of "Kaiser" and "German."

"This was a rough neighborhood," Borel recalls. There was one boy in our block who was shot to death by the police, and another sentenced to life in prison."

But with a fortitude that was to characterize his later life, Paul began to make progress. After graduation from the Clay elementary school in Sheffield, he entered Northeast high school and was graduated in 1929.

In the meantime his father, who had left his job in a watch materials company in Switzerland, began traveling in Kansas selling watch materials out of a suitcase. Today the elder Borel and three of his sons operate Jules Borel & Co., 1110 Grand avenue, Kansas City.

After school hours at Northeast, Paul rode a bicycle as a Western Union messenger and worked as an errand boy for the Pattison, McGrath Dental supply company and the Green Jewelry company. Back to Switzerland to Study.

In 1929, Jules Borel, by this time well on the way to establishing a successful business, took his entire family—four sons and a daughter—back to Switzerland for a visit.

Paul stayed in Switzerland for a year, studying German and drafting. It was here that he was swayed with ambition to be an engineer. All his way, returning to America, he gave thoughts of his future and opportunities ahead.

He entered the University of Kansas in 1930. In the four years there, he became an outstanding student and a leader in campus activities.

Achievements of these distinctions came despite a heavy load of outside work to help pay his expenses. He was a dish washer and later treasurer of his fraternity, Alpha Kappa Lambda. As a demonstration of his determination, he took correspondence

courses in accounting to qualify for the treasurer's job.

He became president of the fraternity, where his roommate was Charles Spahr, now president of the Standard Oil Company of Ohio. He made Sachem, the senior honor society; Scabbard and Blade; was editor of the Kansas Engineer and was a cadet major in the R. O. T. C.

It is with some reluctance that Paul speaks of his days on the K. U. track team. He was a miler with a creditable mark of 4:24, but there was another miler on the same squad named Glenn Cunningham.

"All I ever saw in track meets was Cunningham's back," he recalls with a smile. "But it was a lot of fun traveling!"

After graduation from K. U. in 1934, jobs were scarce for young engineers, but Paul

caught on with the Sun Oil company in Toledo at \$15 a week. A year later he returned

to K. U. to teach in the engineering school and after a month came an opportunity he had long sought—a job with Black and Veatch, consulting engineers, in Kansas City.

Two years after K. U. graduation he decided to go to the Harvard business school. That decision came after a meeting with Edmund Learned, a professor at Harvard who was in Kansas City to visit his brother, Albert Learned of Black & Veatch.

Paul went off to Harvard with zeal. At first he worked in the library. Then he took on a most unusual job, offering himself as a guinea pig in the university laboratory studying fatigue. In an experiment to test endurance, he rode a bicycle for hours and also ran the hundred-yard dash. First he would run the dash only in track shorts, then with heavy football gear. But it paid \$1 an hour—big money to a college youth in those days.

Going back over Borel's



FORMER KANSAS CITIAN HIGH IN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY—Paul Borel.



THE BOREL FAMILY IN THEIR VIRGINIA HOME

In front row, left to right, are Jane, 10; Douglas, 9; Mrs. Borel, 35; and Jack, 7. In rear row, left to right, are Mr. Borel, 37; Nancy, 17; Elaine, 15; and Julie, 12. (Photographs by Benjamin Forte, News Associates).

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association in the Washington area.

Paul's parents live at 4000 West Sixty-second street terrace, Mission, Kas. His three brothers in the Kansas City area are Pierre Borel, 4021 Brookridge drive, Mission; John Borel, 4105 West Seventy-second street terrace, Prairie Village, and Mark Borel, 7411 Delmar road, Prairie Village. A sister, Mrs. James Chandler, lives at 3917 West Sixty-second street, Mission.